

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action mailed on December 8, 2003.

Claims 1, 25, 49, and 73 are amended, and no claims are cancelled or added; as a result, claims 1-96 remain pending in the patent application.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-96 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwai et al (U.S. 5,175,681) in light of Immerman et al (U.S. 6,574,617).

Applicant has amended the independent claims of the application to incorporate functional language describing derivation and generation of docketing data and tasks, differentiating both data from the known art and providing further detail as to functions performed within the present invention that are not performed within Iwai or Immerman. The functional language presented further relates the tasks module to the matter module, as the relationship between generated tasks and the docketing data in light of the patent laws and rules governing patent prosecution is more fully recited.

In light of these amendments, applicant believes the pending claims are distinctly different from the pending claims, for the reasons stated above and as presented in the previous amendment and response. Applicant therefore respectfully requests reexamination and allowance of these pending claims.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (612) 349-9581 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

STEVEN W. LUNDBERG

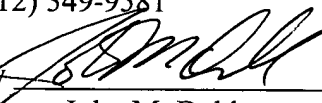
By his Representatives,

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Date

Feb 9 '04

By



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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 9th day of February, 2004.

Dawn M. Boyle

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Signature